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Attorney Docket No.:

PENN-0754

Inventors:

Scott L. Diamond

Serial No.:

09/763,982

Filing Date:

April 25, 2001

Page 2

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

B<sup>1</sup>  
1. (Twice amended) A composition for delivery of a molecule to the nucleus of a eukaryotic cell comprising a nuclear targeting peptide containing a nonclassical, nuclear localization signal which does not interact with importin- $\alpha$  and importin- $\beta$ , with the proviso that the nuclear targeting peptide does not contain a classical nuclear localization signal.

B<sup>2</sup>  
4. (Amended) A method of delivering selected molecules to nuclei of eukaryotic cells comprising contacting the eukaryotic cells with the selected molecules and a nuclear targeting peptide containing a nonclassical, nuclear localization signal with the proviso that the nuclear targeting peptide does not contain a classical nuclear localization signal.

B<sup>3</sup>  
7. (Twice amended) A compound comprising:  
(a) a cationic peptide scaffold; and  
(b) a nuclear targeting peptide containing a non-classical nuclear localization sequence which does not interact with importin- $\alpha$  and importin- $\beta$ , said cationic peptide scaffold being

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Serial No.: 09/763,982  
Filing Date: April 25, 2001  
Page 3

B<sup>3</sup>  
conjugated to said nuclear targeting peptide via a chemical linkage with the proviso that the nuclear targeting peptide does not contain a classical nuclear localization signal.

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B<sup>4</sup>  
9. (Amended) A composition comprising a peptide scaffold, a nuclear targeting peptide containing a nonclassical nuclear localization sequence and a plasmid containing a selected nucleic acid sequence with the proviso that the nuclear targeting peptide does not contain a classical nuclear localization signal.

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B<sup>5</sup>  
11. (Amended) A method for expressing a selected nucleic acid sequence in eukaryotic cells comprising contacting cells with a mixture of a selected nucleic acid sequence, a peptide scaffold and a nuclear targeting peptide containing a nonclassical nuclear localization signal with the proviso that the nuclear targeting peptide does not contain a classical nuclear localization signal.

12. (Amended) A method for expressing a selected nucleic acid sequence in eukaryotic cells comprising forming a complex between a plasmid containing the selected nucleic acid sequence and a scaffold-nuclear targeting peptide conjugate; and contacting cells with the complex with the proviso that the scaffold-nuclear